

FAMILY LIVES AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN INDIA AND THE UK

What's happening?

A research team from the UK and India is carrying out a research project to learn about families' ordinary everyday lives and their relationship to the environment. It is a study of families that include 11-12 year old children (in 7th class at school). We are talking to families in rural and urban areas in the UK and Andhra Pradesh in India. By talking to families in very different places, we hope to learn about the variety of ways in which people experience the environment in their family lives.

Why is this research being done?

Governments and international organisations often make policies about the environment and what individuals and families should do to help with environmental issues without understanding how complicated everyday family life is. We hope that by understanding ordinary family lives better, our research can help policy makers in India and the UK to learn from each other and to develop policies about families and the environment.

What you are being asked to do?

We would like to talk to your family so we can learn from you about your experiences of where you live, that is, your local environment and the things you do from day to day, and how those experiences might or might not connect to bigger environmental issues such as climate change. If you decide to take part in the research, we would make one visit to your child's school and three visits to your home over a period of one and a half weeks. Each visit would last for 1-1½ hours, arranged at times that suit your family. We would like to speak to your family as a whole, and specifically with your 11-12 year old child and with the parent who spends most time with your 11-12 year old child. When we visit you, we will use different methods to help us to understand your family life – talking with you, making maps and asking you to take photographs of your daily life.

What happens to the information you provide?

If your family agrees to take part, everything you say and the information you provide will be kept confidential and will be stored safely and securely, so only the research team will have access to it. We will use the information that families provide to write reports explaining what we have learnt from doing the project and about everyday family lives in different countries and different situations. In these reports we will remove the names and any other identifying details of the families we talk to, so you cannot be identified. With your permission, we would also like to store the information you give us – with all identifying details removed – for other researchers to learn from in the future. However this is not a requirement of taking part in the study.

Do you have to take part?

No. It is completely up to you whether or not you take part in our research. If you do agree to take part, you are free to change your mind if you want to stop at any time. Taking part in the research will not directly help your family, but we hope that you will enjoy taking part, and that the study will help others in the future by helping policy makers to understand family lives.

Who is doing the research?

The researchers are based at the Institute of Education (IOE) in London, the Universities of Sussex and Oxford in the UK, and Shri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam, Tirupathi. The project is part of a larger research group studying Narratives of Varied Everyday Lives and Linked Approaches (NOVELLA), based at IOE and funded by the UK government's Economic and Social Research Council. For more information, please see www.novella.ac.uk

The researchers carrying out the Family Lives and Environment interviews are:



Natasha Shukla



Catherine Walker



Madhavi Latha

Contact Natasha, Catherine or Madhavi if you have any questions about the project:

Email: novella@ioe.ac.uk

Telephone: 0984 933 5370 (Madhavi), 0817 953 2427 (Natasha)

Other members of Family Lives and Environment team are: **Janet Boddy**, Director of Family Lives and Environment, University of Sussex; **Ann Phoenix**: Co-director of Family Lives and Environment and Director of NOVELLA, Institute of Education; **Uma Vennam**: Professor of Social Work, Shri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam, Tirupathi; **Virginia Morrow and Gina Crivello**, University of Oxford; **Rowena Lamb**: Project administrator, Institute of Education. **UK Telephone:** +44(0)20 7612 6921